

City of Portland

Portland, Michigan

Minutes of the City Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017

In Council Chambers at City Hall

Present: Mayor Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck, Council Members Fitzsimmons, Baldyga and Johnston; City Manager Gorman; City Clerk Miller; Police Chief Kirk; DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman

Guests: Kathy Parsons; Eric Proctor with Beerfest on the Bridge

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve the Proposed Agenda as presented.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

Under City Manager Report, City Manager Gorman stated that the last day of operation for McDonald's was yesterday, July 4, 2017. Demolition is scheduled for July 10, 2017. A 90-day construction period is expected for the new building.

The Brush Street Park Festival to dedicate the new playground equipment donated by the WODA Group will take place on July 10, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. This has been a wonderful contribution to the neighborhood and the entire City.

Sparrow is still in the "due diligence" phase of the proposed purchase of development property on Cutler Rd. The title search showed an easement on the property held by Consumers Energy that is no longer needed. City Manager Gorman noted that the legal process is being followed in order to have Consumers Energy release the easements.

The DDA will begin reviewing and implementing the TIF Plan it adopted in 2014. High priority items include the painting of the pedestrian bridge over the Grand River and the construction of a splash pad. City Manager Gorman noted that he is gathering information and quotes on painting the bridge. A proposal and information on splash pads has been requested from Fleis & VandenBrink and will be presented to the DDA, Council, and Parks and Recreation Board for consideration.

The City will be working with Granger on the implementation of curbside recycling in September. City Manager Gorman stated that he has received requests from both Portland and Danby Townships to locate their new recycling center someplace in the City. Staff is considering the requests.

On June 21, 2017 the Council held a public workshop on the James Street Improvement Project. Engineers with Fleis & VandenBrink presented information on the project and several residents provided constructive feedback. The final walk through on the project will take place this week with staff and engineers.

The Franchise Agreement and METRO Act permit have been submitted to representatives of ACD.net. Evaluation of the six proposed siting locations for the cell towers is still taking place.

The City will be working with Fleis & VandenBrink to review the Wellhead Protection Program that was updated in 2014 in order to apply for grant funds.

City Manager Gorman reminded residents that no parking is allowed on City sidewalks or on the front lawn of residences.

Under Presentations, DDA/Main Street Director Conner Wellman presented the DDA Report. All Main Street programs have been caught up and are in good standing. Offers have been made and accepted on the five continuous buildings on Kent St., that include the opera house, by a developer who has worked on several historic rehab projects. The closing has occurred on three of the five properties and will occur soon on the other two. The City and DDA are working with the developer to provide resources and connections. The DDA has amended its budget to purchase two decorative lamp posts this fiscal year. One will be installed at the corner of Grand River Ave. and Water St. and the second a bit further north. The DDA is planning to install one more in each of the next two fiscal years to complete the decorative lighting on Water St. to the Red Mill. A video is being produced to debut at the Ionia Free Fair Marketplace where it will be shown a minimum of 600 times.

Eric Proctor provided information on Beerfest on the Bridge which will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 2:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Under New Business, the Council held the First Reading of Ordinance 132B to amend Chapter 30 of the Code of Ordinances. This amendment includes “housekeeping” changes in order to provide for the addition of curbside recycling and the elimination of certain sections that are no longer applicable.

The Council considered Resolution 17-60 to approve Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal to assist the City with the preparation of its Water System Supply Asset Management Plan required by the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399 at a cost of \$19,000.00.

Motion by Baldyga, supported by Johnston, to approve Resolution 17-60 approving Fleis & VandenBrink’s proposal to assist the City with the preparation of its Water System Supply Asset Management Plan.

Yeas: Baldyga, Johnston, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Barnes

Nays: None

Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-61 to approve the purchase of a 2016 GMC Sierra 3500HD dump truck for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$38,709.35. This truck will replace the 1994 Dodge 3500 dump truck that has fallen into disrepair and is in need of replacement. City Manager Gorman presented photos of the dump truck being replaced and noted that this resolution is for the purchase of the truck only, another resolution will be presented to outfit the vehicle.

Motion by VanSlambrouck, supported by Fitzsimmons, to approve Resolution 17-61 approving the purchase of a 2016 GMC Sierra 3500HD dump truck for the Department of Public Works.

Yeas: VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, Johnston, Barnes

Nays: None
Adopted

The Council considered Resolution 17-62 to confirm the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to approve Resolution 17-62 confirming the Mayor's appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Motion by Baldyga, supported by VanSlambrouck, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes and Synopsis from the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 19, 2017 and the Special Council Meeting on June 21, 2017, payment of invoices in the amount of \$105,949.55 and payroll in the amount of \$115,411.61 for a total of \$221,361.16. There were no purchase orders over \$5,000.00.

Yeas: Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Fitzsimmons, Johnston, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Under City Manager Comments, City Manager Gorman noted that the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon will be held Monday, July 10, 2017 at Noon at the Wagon Wheel.

City Manager Gorman thanked the City Police and Ambulance Departments for their efforts during the St. Pats Summerfest on the planning and emergency preparedness. Everything went very well and many compliments were received.

City Manager Gorman noted that he will mark his 3rd Anniversary of serving as City Manager and that he is thankful for the opportunity.

Mayor Barnes stated that he appreciates the effort by City Manager Gorman.

Under Council Comments, Mayor Pro-Tem VanSlambrouck encouraged residents to visit other local establishments while the McDonald's is closed.

Mayor Barnes thanked City Staff for the upkeep of City Hall and its grounds, it looks very nice. He also noted that the Relay for Life will be held in Saranac July 7-8, 2017.

Mayor Barnes acknowledged the recent passing of John Mathews who was well known in the community and a great supporter of Portland. He expressed his condolences to his wife and family.

Motion by Fitzsimmons, supported by Baldyga, to adjourn the regular meeting.

Yeas: Fitzsimmons, Baldyga, VanSlambrouck, Johnston, Barnes
Nays: None
Adopted

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Barnes, Mayor

Monique I. Miller, City Clerk